

Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

>

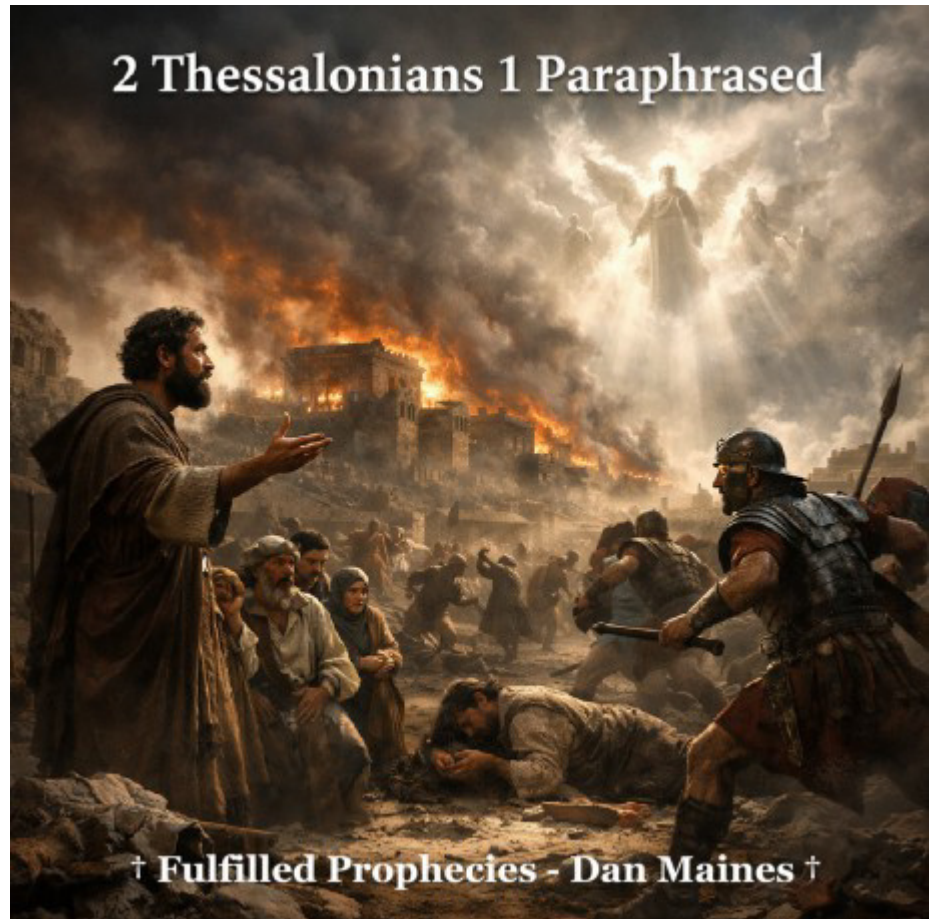
[Other](#)

>

[Share on Facebook](#)

[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

2 Thessalonians 1 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

2 Thessalonians 1 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Paul wrote this letter to believers who were already suffering persecution.

† Their faith was being tested, but Paul reminded them that God sees every injustice and will bring righteous judgment.

† The chapter shows that the suffering of the saints and the coming judgment on their persecutors belonged to the same approaching day that Jesus had already warned about (Matthew 16:27-28).

† Early Christians also understood these words in connection with the judgment that came upon Jerusalem in that generation.

2 Thessalonians 1:1

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy write to the congregation of believers in Thessalonica who belong to God our Father and to the Lord Jesus Christ.

† Paul identifies the believers as belonging to God and to Christ together, showing the unity between the Father and the Son (John 10:30).

† This greeting establishes that the church was God's people, not the earthly system that opposed them (Hebrews 12:22-23).

† Ignatius of Antioch also wrote about believers belonging to Christ as God's true assembly.

2 Thessalonians 1:2

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

† Grace and peace describe the covenant blessings believers receive through Christ (Romans 5:1-2).

† Paul reminds them that even while persecution surrounds them, they stand in God's favor.

† Clement of Alexandria taught that true peace comes through reconciliation with God through Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:3

We always thank God for you, brothers and sisters, because it's only right, since your faith keeps growing stronger and the love each of you has for one another continues to increase.

† Paul praises their growing faith even while they were under pressure.

† True faith matures through hardship, not comfort (James 1:2-4).

† Irenaeus wrote that the church often grows strongest when persecution tries to silence it.

2 Thessalonians 1:4

Because of this, we ourselves proudly speak about you among the congregations of God, telling them about your perseverance and faith through all the persecution and suffering you are enduring.

† Their endurance became an example to other churches (1 Peter 5:9).

† Perseverance was a sign that they truly belonged to Christ.

† Tertullian famously observed that the blood of the martyrs became the seed of the church.

2 Thessalonians 1:5

This is clear evidence that God's judgment is righteous, and it shows that you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God for which you are suffering.

† Their suffering wasn't meaningless, it proved God's righteous judgment was unfolding.

† Jesus taught that persecution would accompany the coming of the kingdom in their generation (Matthew 5:10-12).

† Eusebius recorded how early believers saw persecution as confirmation of Christ's warnings.

2 Thessalonians 1:6

Since it's just for God to repay with trouble those who are troubling you,

† Paul assures them that God would repay their persecutors with justice.

† Jesus promised judgment on those who persecuted His followers (Matthew 23:34-36).

† Josephus recorded the terrible judgment that later fell on Jerusalem and those who opposed the believers.

2 Thessalonians 1:7

and to give relief to you who are suffering, and to us as well, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His powerful angels.

† The relief promised here was tied to the revealing of Christ in

judgment.

† Jesus said His coming in judgment would happen before that generation passed away (Matthew 24:34).

† Early Christian writers connected Christ's coming with the destruction that came upon Jerusalem in AD 70.

2 Thessalonians 1:8

He will bring blazing judgment on those who refuse to acknowledge God and who do not obey the good news of our Lord Jesus.

† Fire often symbolized divine judgment in Scripture (Isaiah 66:15-16).

† The judgment especially targeted those who rejected Christ's message (John 3:18-19).

† Josephus described Jerusalem burning during the Roman destruction of the city.

2 Thessalonians 1:9

They will face the penalty of lasting destruction, separated from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.

† This destruction refers to covenant judgment on the system that rejected Christ (Hebrews 8:13).

† The temple system that once represented God's presence was permanently removed.

† Eusebius wrote that Jerusalem's destruction fulfilled Christ's warnings about the city's coming ruin.

2 Thessalonians 1:10

This will happen on the day when He comes to be honored among His people and to be admired by all who have believed, because you believed our testimony.

† The same event that judged the wicked also vindicated the believers.

† Christ's followers were shown to be the true people of God when the old covenant order passed away (Hebrews 12:26-28).

† Early Christians saw the fall of Jerusalem as proof that

Christ's words had been fulfilled.

2 Thessalonians 1:11

For this reason we keep praying for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of the calling you have received and that by His power He will bring to completion every good purpose and work of faith.

† Paul prayed that their faith would continue producing fruit.

† God completes the work He begins in His people (Philippians 1:6).

† Clement of Rome encouraged believers to remain faithful knowing that God strengthens those who trust Him.

2 Thessalonians 1:12

Then the name of our Lord Jesus will be honored in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

† Believers glorify Christ through faithful lives.

† Christ also honors His people by sharing His glory with them (John 17:22).

† Early Christian writers repeatedly emphasized that faithful endurance brings honor to Christ's name.

Historical References

† Josephus described the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in AD 70 in *The Jewish War*.

† Irenaeus wrote about the perseverance of believers under persecution in *Against Heresies*.

† Eusebius recorded the flight of Christians from Jerusalem before the city's destruction in *Ecclesiastical History*.

† Tertullian wrote that persecution strengthened the church in *Apologeticus*.

How it applies to us today

† This chapter reminds us that God sees injustice even when it seems like evil is winning.

† Believers are called to remain faithful through trials just like

the Thessalonian church did.

† Christ has already proven that His promises come true exactly when He said they would.

† Our confidence today rests in the finished work of Christ and the fulfilled judgment He already carried out.

Q & A Appendix

Q When did the judgment described in this chapter happen?

A Jesus placed the timing in the lifetime of His listeners.

Matthew 16:27-28 says some standing there would see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.

Q Who were the persecutors Paul referred to?

A The same hostile leaders and systems that rejected Christ and persecuted the early church (Acts 8:1; Matthew 23:34-36).

Q What does the revealing of Jesus from heaven mean?

A It refers to His coming in judgment, the same event Jesus described in Matthew 24:30-34.

Q What destruction was Paul speaking about?

A The destruction of the old covenant system centered in Jerusalem and its temple (Hebrews 8:13; Luke 21:20-22).

Q Why were the Thessalonian believers encouraged by this message?

A Because it assured them that their suffering would end and their persecutors would face God's justice (Luke 18:7-8).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

© Fulfilled Prophecies - Dan Maines.

Source Index

† 2 Thessalonians 1

† Josephus, The Jewish War

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies
† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History
† Tertullian, Apologeticus

Share on Facebook

Links

Facebook Link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.